

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 296

Expressing the sense of Congress that there is no honor in “honor killings”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 10, 2005

Mr. NADLER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was
referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that there is no honor
in “honor killings”.

Whereas so-called “honor crimes” are acts of violence, usually murder, committed by male family members against female family members who are perceived to have brought dishonor upon the family;

Whereas thousands of women and girls around the world are stabbed, shot, beaten, burned, or maimed every year by male relatives, including husbands, fathers, and brothers, who accuse them of dishonoring their families by not abiding by tribal or religious traditions, being unfaithful, seeking a divorce, refusing an arranged marriage, or marrying according to their will;

Whereas the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 61st Session, March–April 2005, working with the Spe-

cial Rapporteurs on violence against women and extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, received reports of so-called honor killings from numerous countries;

Whereas although honor killings may be outlawed, law enforcement and judicial systems often fail properly to investigate, arrest, and prosecute offenders, and laws frequently permit reduction in sentences or exemptions from prosecution for those who “kill in the name of honor”, typically resulting in a token punishment, impunity, and continued violence against women; and

Whereas the right to exist is the most fundamental of all rights and must be guaranteed to every individual without discrimination, and the perpetuation of honor killings and dowry deaths is a deliberate violation of women’s human rights that should be universally condemned: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—

3 (1) the United States Agency for International
4 Development should—

5 (A) work with foreign law enforcement and
6 judicial agencies to enact legal system reforms
7 to address more effectively the investigation and
8 prosecution of so-called “honor crimes”;

9 (B) make resources available to local orga-
10 nizations to provide refuge and rehabilitation
11 for women who are victims of honor crimes and
12 the children of such women; and

1 (C) encourage public awareness and edu-
2 cation of human rights and women's rights;

3 (2) the Department of State, in preparing the
4 annual Country Reports on Human Rights Prac-
5 tices, should include—

6 (A) information relating to the incidence of
7 honor crimes in foreign countries;

8 (B) the steps taken by foreign govern-
9 ments to address the problem of honor crimes;
10 and

11 (C) all relevant actions taken by the
12 United States, whether through diplomacy or
13 foreign assistance programs, to reduce the inci-
14 dence of honor crimes and to increase investiga-
15 tions and prosecutions of such crimes;

16 (3) the President should direct the United
17 States Permanent Representative to the United Na-
18 tions to communicate to the United Nations the con-
19 cern of the United States regarding the high rate of
20 honor-related violence toward women worldwide and
21 request that the appropriate United Nations bodies,
22 in consultation with relevant nongovernmental orga-
23 nizations, propose actions to be taken to encourage
24 these countries to demonstrate strong efforts to end
25 such violence; and

1 (4) the President and the Secretary of State
2 should—

3 (A) communicate directly with leaders of
4 foreign countries in which honor crimes, includ-
5 ing honor killings, dowry deaths, and related
6 practices, are endemic, in order to convey the
7 most serious concerns of the United States re-
8 garding these gross violations of human rights;
9 and

10 (B) urge such foreign leaders to adequately
11 investigate and prosecute all honor crimes, in-
12 cluding honor killings, dowry deaths, and re-
13 lated practices, with appropriate penalties.

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